RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 25*th November*, 2009/4 *Agrahayana*, 1931 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

————————

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

*81. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka faced unprecedented floods recently;

(b) if so, the details of damages caused and the financial assistance provided to these States for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people;

(c) whether these States have demanded declaring the current flood situation as a national calamity; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Due to low pressure weather system formed in the Bay of Bengal, 14 districts in Andhra Pradesh and 15 districts in Karnataka experienced severe floods as a result of heavy rains during 29th September to 4th October, 2009. As per memoranda received from these, details of loss of human lives and extent of damage to property are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Requests of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for financial assistance from NCCF in the wake of above floods are being processed. However, pending the processing of their request, second installment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 2009-10 amounting to Rs.156.835 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs.52.26 crore to Karnataka have been released in advance. In addition, in pursuance of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for release of Rs.1000 crore each to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, an amount of Rs.500 crore each has already been released from NCCF on an 'on account' basis. The remaining amount of Rs.500 crore each to these States will be released by the Ministry of Finance after the augmentation of NCCF in the budget.

These States have also requested to declare these floods as National Calamity. Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamity is provided under the Schemes of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). A CRF has been constituted for each State, corpus of which is shared between the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25.

To meet the requirement of funds for relief operations, in the event of a calamity of severe nature, when resources in the CRF account are inadequate, additional assistance is considered from NCCF, which is 100% funded by the Government of India. As such, in case of calamities of 'severe nature', the support to the concerned State Government is provided at National level in the form of logistic and financial support to supplement their efforts to meet the situation effectively. The Scheme for CRF/NCCF does not contemplate to declare any calamity as a "National Calamity".

Statement

Details of extent of Damage caused due to Heavy Rains/Floods during 29th September to 4th October, 2009 in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

Item	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
Human lives lost	90	229
Livestock perished	43642	7882
Houses damaged	2.14 lakh	6.55 lakh
Cropped area affected	2.82 lakh ha.	22.85 lakh ha.
Damage to roads	14135 km.	29613 km.
No. of Bridges and culvert damaged	3115	5240
No. of irrigation system/ structures damaged	1811	2182
Damage to power sector	Ten 132 KV Lines (km), Two KV sub-stations	1.15 lakh power installations

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: As stated in the answer, the flood and heavy rain had caused widespread damage in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Such natural calamities are regular features of our country. Though we cannot prevent rain and flood, but if we take precautionary measures, we can mitigate the damages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question. Don't make a statement; ask the question.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, I am putting the question. The main reason of the flash flood in Andhra Pradesh was the releasing of surplus water from Almati and Narayanpur Dams. Recently,

Moolathara Dam in Palghat district of Kerala collapsed partially due to sudden release of water from Aliyar Dam. The concerned authorities did not give prior intimation about the volume of water to be released.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a statement. Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, my question is, in such a situation, whether the Union Government will create some mechanism to coordinate the actions of State Governments for releasing the surplus water from dams and issuing early warning to the people.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question pertains to the Ministry of Water Resources and it has no relevance with this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, please.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, the Kerala State had suffered heavy loss of human lives, crops and houses due to heavy rain and flood in the monthof June this year. The estimated loss is Rs. 700 crores. A Central team had visited the affected areas and it was convinced that the State has suffered heavy losses. I would like to know whether the Government had given any extra financial help to the State for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the northern parts of Kerala had floods from 15th to 20th of July, 2009 and eight districts have been affected. I will give you details of the lives lost and the other losses suffered by the State due to it. On the night of 15th July, 2009, we had sent two companies of NDRF to the State of Kerala from Arconam.

Sir, regarding the amount released by the State, I would like to inform you that an Inter-Ministerial group met and approved Rs. 61.36 crores and Rs. 1.86 crores from the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Project for the State of Kerala this year.

SHRI V. HUNUMANTHA RAO: Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Due to heavy rains, a lot of people, the small vendors, the shopkeepers, etc., lost everything. So, I think, the banks should come forward to give some loans to these affected people. Then only, they can build up their career and business because they have lost everything. So, the nationalised banks should be requested to give some loans so that these people can rebuild their career. I would like to know whether the Government is ready to help these people through the bankers.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, whenever there is a calamity of this nature, the invariable practice is for the State-level Bankers' Committee to meet. The Chief Minister usually chairs such a meeting and I know a number of cases where at that meeting, banks have come forward to reschedule loans and to give fresh loans. Whether such a meeting has taken place in each State, I am not in a position to say immediately, but I know that a meeting took place in the State of Karnataka. Perhaps such meetings have also taken place in other States. I shall find that out and give that information to the hon. Member.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, there has been this severe calamity in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Inter-Ministerial Group visited these two States. Through you, Sir, I would like to ask whether the interministerial Central team has submitted any report, and if yes, whether the Inter-Ministerial Group has examined the Inter-Ministerial Central Team's recommendations. What are the Inter-Ministerial Group's recommendations to the High Level Committee about expenditure to deal with the calamity and what is the extent of assistance provided?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the Inter-Ministerial Central team has already submitted the report and the State Government has submitted a memorandum amounting to Rs. 11609.25 crores comprising Rs. 3075.83 crores from the National Calamity Relief Fund and Rs. 8533.40 crores towards permanent restoration. The memorandum of the State Government for additional assistance out of the NCF is under process. Requests of the State Government for assistance in items outside the CRF and NCF norms have been forwarded to the Department of Agricultural Cooperation and other departments for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rama Jois. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, one question please.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, the hon. Minister may please state how many houses have been washed away and how much time will be taken to rebuild them.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, according to the report given by the State Government, 6.55 lakh houses have been lost in the State of Karnataka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 82 Hon. Member absent.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three supplementaries only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, I belong to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that, but the three supplementaries-rule is sacrosanct. ....*(Interruptions)*... This is not a debate.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, this is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are very large number...*(Interruptions)*... Please, do not interrupt.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we belong to the affected areas. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want a debate, please give Notice for the debate.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we belong to the affected areas. ...*(Interruptions)* There should be a half an hour discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 83

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : सर, मैं आन्ध्र प्रदेश से हूँ ...(**व्यवधान**)...

جناب محمد علی خان : سر، میں آندھرا پردیش سے ہوں۔۔ (مداخلت) ۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: He gave an answer.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: He did not give a full answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we want a half an hour discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then complaint about the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we want a half an hour discussion. We all belong to the affected States. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : चेयरमैन साहब, हम इस पर Half an Hour Discussion चाहते हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

Half an Hour Discussion

جناب محمد علی خان : چیئرمین صاحب، ہم اس پر چاہتے ہیں ۔۔(مداخلت)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the manner in which this matter is to be raised. I am sorry...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we want a half an hour discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure for giving notice for discussions. Please, follow it. What is the difficulty? Question 83.

*82. *[The questioner Shri N.R. Govindarajar was absent. For answer *vide* page 51 *infra*.]

Strengthening the mechanism for protection of human rights

*83. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:††
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to strengthen the mechanism for protection of human rights;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

---

†[ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mohammed Adeeb.